

"DEDICATED TO FREEDOM OF THE ROAD"



ABATE of Michigan, Inc.
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From: Vince Consiglio, President, ABATE of Michigan

To: Transportation Committee

RE: wire "safety barriers"

Thank you, for the opportunity to address the committee on the wire safety barriers. ABATE of Michigan members are very concerned about the danger to motorcyclists from the "wire". Having ridden over 900,000 miles on motorcycles the placement of these barriers on Michigan roads present a hazard not a safety tool. For example on north I-275 in Farrington Hills the wire is 2 feet from the edge of the shoulder. "Cheese cutters" are the slang reference to them.

As the Detroit Metro Regional Motorcycle Safety Coordinator I have been responsible for the safety training of over 75,000 students in southeast Michigan since 1981. We teach not only the physical skills of riding a motorcycle but the mental skills. The defensive riding technique of SEE, Search/Scan, Evaluate, and Execute, are the basis of this riding strategy. We also teach riders on the importance of finding an "out". This out is used to avoid traffic hazards. As an experienced motorcycle rider I have used the shoulder many times as an out in traffic situations. Motorcyclists divide their driving lane in 3 parts, left center, right. In my own defensive riding strategy I relied on the shoulder as this out my riding in the far right portion of my lane. With the usage of the wire so close to the shoulder this has changed.

In conclusion, motorcycling is a great way to travel, having fun and saving gas at the same time. These wire barriers have put HAZARDS on the roadway and have decreased the safety of motorcyclists.

Thank you,

Vince Consiglio